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Gates of the Arctic

National Park and Preserve
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



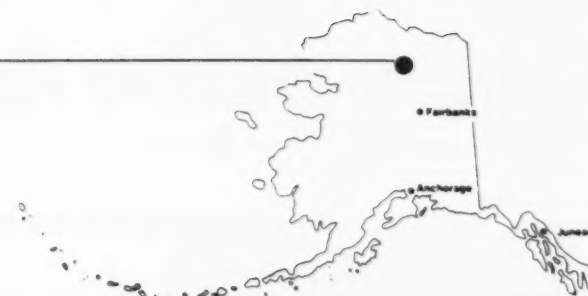
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Gates of the Arctic



ACCOMMODATIONS AND SERVICES

Ranger stations are located in Bettles and Anaktuvuk Pass, but no developed facilities exist in the park and preserve. There are no established campgrounds. To minimize impacts, camp on gravel bars or areas with hardy heath or moss

vegetation. Minimal supplies are available in Bettles and Anaktuvuk Pass. Licensed guides and outfitters can supply trip equipment and boats. Fairbanks has a complete range of supplies and services.

Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve lies at the heart of one of the world's finest remaining wilderness areas. Located in the central Brooks Range above the Arctic Circle, the park and preserve encompass 8.5 million acres, 200 miles (320 km.) northwest of Fairbanks. The value of its wild and undeveloped character was recognized in the enabling legislation passed by Congress in 1980.

Visitors may observe a variety of landforms ranging from the southern foothills across the ragged peaks of the Brooks Range to the rolling expanses of the North Slope. Remote glacially-carved valleys dissect the range and contain many clearwater rivers and alpine lakes. Much of the park and preserve lies north of the limit of trees at about 67° 30'N along the river valleys of the Brooks Range. Vegetation above tree line consists of shrubs and tundra.

PARK RESOURCES

Managed as wilderness, Gates of the Arctic has no established facilities. Backpacking and floating rivers are the predominant activities. Hikers and floaters are generally dropped off and picked up by charter aircraft. The aircraft, properly equipped, can land on lakes, rivers or gravel bars. Many planes can carry folding kayaks, canoes or rafts. Rivers suitable for floating include the Alatna, John, North Fork Koyukuk, Killik, Noatak and the Kobuk.

Rock and mountain climbing opportunities may be found in the Mount Igikpak and Arrigetch Peak areas. There are no established trails in the park.

Brown and black bear, moose, caribou, wolves, Dall sheep, marmot, ground squirrels, eagles, hawks and many migratory birds may be observed in the park and preserve. Fisheries resources include grayling in clear streams and lakes, lake trout in deep lakes, char in streams on the North Slope, and sheefish and chum salmon in the Kobuk and Alatna rivers. An Alaska state fishing license is required.

Typical taiga or boreal forests of white spruce, aspen and birch usually are found on south-facing slopes up to 2,100 feet elevation. Black spruce is commonly found on north facing slopes and on poorly drained lowlands. Near tree line, the shrub thicket community of dwarf and resin birch, alder and willow appear. Heath, moss and lichen make up the understory.



ACCESS

Most visitors approach the central Brooks Range via scheduled flights from Fairbanks to Bettles or Anaktuvuk Pass and then charter small aircraft into the park and preserve.

Reservations are recommended. Weight is at a premium on scheduled flights. There is an extra charge for gear in excess of 40 pounds. Outsized bags or equipment should be noted when making reservations. Charter flights may begin in Fairbanks. Charter time is

paid to and from the destination. A list of licensed air taxis or guides is available upon request. It is possible to hike into the park via the Dalton Highway, but hazardous road conditions require special preparations. Plan extra time during your trip for weather delays and pack extra food and clothing.

WEATHER



Long cold winters and short mild summers are the rule. On the southern slopes, mid-summer temperatures in the lowlands may occasionally rise to 80 F (27 C) with lows near 50 F (10 C). Highland temperatures are cool and on the northern slopes, the range is between 70 F (21 C) and 40 F (4 C). Freezing

temperatures may occur at any time, but especially in mid-to late-August.

August is usually very rainy and good rain gear is essential at all times. Mid-June through July is the heavy mosquito and gnat season. Insect repellent, headnets and mosquito-proof tents are recommended.

TRIP PLANNING



In preparation for your trip, be sure that your clothing, equipment and food are of good quality, light and adequate for the task. Clothing should include enough layers, even in summer, to provide warmth in subfreezing temperatures. Tents should be strong, light and have a rainfly. Food should be lightweight and highly nutritious. Carry enough food for several extra days for each member of the

party. Know how to use your equipment before your trip. Carry spare parts and a repair kit. Plan for emergencies by including a good first aid kit, compass and signal mirror. All visitors should be competent in outdoor skills. Many good books are available on the subject. Winter travel and camping requires special skills and conditioning, and should be carefully planned.

SUBSISTENCE

Local residents use park and preserve resources to support their subsistence way of life. Camps, fishnets, traps and equipment are private property. Please observe common courtesies and respect privacy and property.

PRECAUTIONS

This is a remote wilderness. Animals are wild and unpredictable. Keep a clean camp and use common sense. Cook away from your campsite. River crossings are especially hazardous.

Water should be treated or boiled before drinking. Hypothermia is a threat: be prepared to deal with it. Leave an itinerary with friends.

FIREARMS

Visitors may carry firearms for protection. Be familiar with the weapon. Sport hunting is not allowed in the park, but it is permitted in the preserve. An Alaska state hunting license is required.

For further information write:
Superintendent
Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve
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Fairbanks, AK 99707